

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 1-79 were pending at the time of the outstanding Office Action. Of these claims, claims 1-14, 30-40 and 53-65 have been withdrawn. Claims 24 and 75 have been amended to address antecedent basis issues and clarify the claim language. Further, claims 15, 41 and 66 have been amended, and claims 20, 46 and 71 have been cancelled. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier. Thus, claims 15-19, 21-20, 41-45, 47-52, 66-70 and 72-79 are now pending for examination in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 20, 22, 28, 29, 46, 48, 71, 73 and 79 contain allowable subject matter.

Prior Art Rejections:

Claims 15-18, 23-27, 41-45, 47, 49-52, 66-70, 72 and 74-78 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2006/0025161 to Funato et al. (hereinafter "Funato") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0029178 to Criss et al. (hereinafter "Criss"). Claims 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Funato in view of Criss and further in view of U.S. Patent 7,155,262 to Shoobridge (hereinafter "Shoobridge"). These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the reasons given below.

Independent claim 15 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 20. Independent claim 41 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 46. Independent claim 66 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 71. Thus, the prior art rejections set forth above are moot. Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 6/4/03

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